



Plenary sitting

B8-1409/2016

22.12.2016

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure
on the presence of titanium dioxide in sweets

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on the presence of titanium dioxide in sweets

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, in October 2016, research by the NGO ‘Agir pour l’environnement’ revealed that around 100 types of sweet manufactured using the food colouring E171 consequently contained titanium dioxide nanoparticles;
- B. whereas these particles can cross the intestinal, cerebral and renal barriers and are toxic to DNA, causing inflammatory reactions, cell death and oxidative stress, which can in turn cause disease (cataracts, cancer, diabetes);
- C. whereas children are said to ingest four times as much of these substances because of their high sweet consumption;
- D. whereas the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified titanium dioxide as ‘possibly carcinogenic to humans by inhalation (Group 2B)’ since 2006, but the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) renewed its authorisation in September 2016, not considering it to present any health risks;
- 1. Urges the Commission to apply the precautionary principle by taking a cautious approach to this substance and taking into account the IARC’s decision of 2006.